Besides, a Centrally sponsored Scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) was launched on 2.12.2001 with a view to ameliorating the conditions of the urban slum dwellers living below the poverty line who do not possess adequate shelter. The Scheme has the primary objective to facilitate the construction and upgradation of the dwelling units for the slum dwellers and to provide health and enabling urban environment through community toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, a component of the Scheme.

(b) Slum Development being a State subject, State Governments survey and take stock of slums/jhuggies in their respective States. However, the Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) conducted a one time study on slums in 1995-96 and brought out a report titled "a Compendium on India Slums-1996". According to this report the slum population of India is estimated to be 6.18 crores in 2001.

An attempt was made for the first time during the Census of India, 2001 by the Registrar General of India to collect detailed data about slum population of the country but only in the cities/towns having 50.000 population or more based on 1991 census. As per the provisional figures of Census of India 2001, the slum population of such 607 towns/cities of the country is 4.03 crores approximately.

Foreign Investment in Housing

†2153. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned foreign investment in the house construction industry;

(b) the details of the basis on which sanction for foreign investment has been accorded;

(c) whether any assessment has been done before according sanction regarding average annual foreign direct investment for coming years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assessment of benefit which metropolitan cities, cities and towns are expected to get as a result thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to catalyse investment in construction and development projects as an instrument to generate economic activity, create new employment opportunities and add to the available housing stock and built-up infrastructure, the Government has allowed FDI upto 100% under the automatic route for townships housing built-up infrastructure and construction-development projects which would include housing commercial premises, hotels, resorts, hospitals, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure rather than limiting it to only development of integrated townships. This has been done after due deliberations at various levels.

Since the new Policy has taken effect recently the actual benefit can be assessed only after some time.

Shortage of houses in urban areas

†2154. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding shortage of housing units in urban areas;

(b) if so, the shortage so assessed at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the projected shortage by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the number of houses proposed to be constructed during the Tenth Five Year Plan period in Government and private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By the end of Ninth Five Year Plan period urban housing shortage was estimated as 8.89 million.

(c) The total number of urban houses required cumulatively during the Tenth Five Year Plan period is assessed at 22.44 million.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.